

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Charlie Ames

Our May meeting was a big success. Troy Creasy gave an outstanding presentation on steelhead fishing. Since I haven't fished the river since the flood in 1983 I was amazed how the techniques have developed.

Oneida Lake is in a state of transition and some of us (myself included) are having a difficult time adjusting. The trolling bite is still there but the locations change on a daily basis. Rick Paninski has been pretty consistent but most of us are doing just fair with an occasional good day. The weed bite should be starting any day now which should improve the fishing. Oneida still has to be one of the best walleye fisheries in the country.

The fishing on the big lake still is good. The browns are still in close but you have to be on the water at daybreak if you expect any action. Salmon are being taken in deeper water and I'm sure the action will pick up.

The American Carp Society had their Northeast regional finals on the Seneca River May 14-16. My son, Eric, and his partner, Steve Ware, finished 2nd out of 42 teams entered. They caught 2504 lbs. In 50 hours without any sleep. They call this the ironman tournament for good reason.

The tournament started at 9:00AM on the 14th and continued for 50 consecutive hours until 11:00AM on the 16th. The 42 teams from all over the US, Canada and Europe caught an amazing 33,283 lbs. of carp. The winning team of Tom Brooks and Colin Peters caught 2804 lbs. and earned \$3000 for their efforts. Eric and Steve won \$2500 for 2nd place plus \$300 for having the most fish and biggest fish for a local team.

Carp fishing is a great spectator sport since it is all bank fishing and spectators can watch the fish being caught as opposed to a conventional tournament when all you can watch is the fish being weighed in.

As I have pointed out many times we truly have the best freshwater fishing in the country right here in our backyard. The fishing for salmon, trout, walleye, bass and now carp is world class. We are indeed fortunate.

The lucky winner of our Lowrance Sonar/GPS was Pat Mahoney of Altmar.

Be sure to attend our June 17th meeting at Gander Mountain when Fred Kuepper will give a presentation on "Project Healing Waters" which is a program to introduce wounded veterans to trout and salmon fishing.

Be sure to pencil in Saturday, August 1st for our annual Picnic/Derby at the Mexico VFW. Hopefully it will be at the peak of the season.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next newsletter will be July 1. All information should be sent to Libby Lougnot, 8205 Yukon Dr., Cicero, NY 13039 e-mail: LibbyL@twcny.rr.com

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 20, 2009

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the third monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:10 PM on May 20th in the meeting room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Twenty three members/guests attended and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned that the minutes in the April Newsletter be accepted as written. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Several members present stated that they had not been receiving their Newsletters. Some minor address irregularities were noted and hand written on June's mailing labels. The database will be corrected accordingly.

Tom Lott gave a detailed summary of payments and account transfers for the period April 16 – May 20, 09. Checks, totaling \$833 were written for postage, Newsletter editing, and Newsletter printing. Elosta's current savings and checking accounts total \$15,067.73 including the \$1918.17 remaining in the Pro-Am netpen account. Copies of Tom's Report were also available to the officers and Board members present. The motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and unanimously approved.

Diane Kuehn – Coastal Tourism Specialist from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) spoke briefly about a lake oriented study they will be initiating during June 09 to obtain marketing and promotional information concerning resident participation in Lake Ontario bass angling opportunities. Not a lot of data is available and the study is being prepared in anticipation of a significant decline in non-resident interest. The surveys will be mailed directly to Lake County property owners. Members who receive the survey are urged to respond.

At 7:30 pm Charlie Ames introduced Captain Troy Creasy publisher of *Lake Ontario Outdoors*. Troy enthusiastically prefaced his presentation on "Bobber (float) Fishing Techniques" with the announcement that this past season provided the best steelhead fishing he has seen on the Salmon River in years. At the present time we can only speculate about the reasons for this dramatic improvement. However, "catch and release" and predation on juvenile naturally spawned salmon are at the forefront of thought. All stocked fish are now marked but it will take a year or two before a comparison with un-tagged fish can be made.

Troy explained that bobber fishing is about as simple and forgiving as stream fishing gets. All the angler needs is 9 – 13 foot long flexible (noodle type) rod, a relatively light duty spinning reel, some split shot for weight, the all important adjustable bobber, and plastic "Glow Roe Beads" English round shot are preferred over the eared "Splits" to reduce drag and no smelly bait is required.

Adjustments to the weight, sliding bobber and the sliding bead are dependant upon the current and depth of water to be fished. The basic idea is to drift the bead and hook along the bottom slightly ahead or down stream from the float (Trodding the Float). This can be accomplished by casting the rig across current or slightly upstream and slowly controlling the release of line from the reel with a forefinger. The fish will hit the bead (an Alaskan creation) and the hook will slip up to the corner of the mouth. Legal, perhaps, but the jury is still out on this one. The long flexible rod will do the rest but, heavier line should be considered to reduce stress and contain the fish, within reason, to a respectable reach of the river. The more experienced can finesse the presentation with a center pin reel at some extra cost.

In general the time of day has little effect on the bite and monofilament line is preferred to prevent icing up. After taking questions from the floor the meeting was returned to Charlie at 8:10 PM.

Charlie Ames noted that his son Eric (member) and his team mate placed second to a North Carolina duo in the May 5th 50 hours long Baldwinsville carp tournament. Each team netted around 2500 pounds of fish.

Doug Fuegel gave a brief wrap-up on the raffle and noted that the dues will not need to be increased in the near future.

Comments from the floor were consistent regarding the season to date on the big lake. Fishing for browns and Kings has been exceptional, weather permitting. Green on green continues to be a favorite but, they seem to hit on everything at one time or another. Flutter spoons and stick baits have also produced a lot of fish. No secret hot colors or lures of the year have been mentioned. The number of fallback steelhead taken seems to be consistent with great river fishing experienced earlier.

Tom Lott reported that walleye fishing on Oneida Lake continues to be slow although he and his partner limited out earlier in the day.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM. Next meeting is at 7PM, June 17 at Gander Mountain in Cicero. As always, walk-ins are welcome. *MacKenzie*

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Doug Fuegel

Do the numbers 90 verses 50 mean anything to you? If they don't they should. Although the numbers vary slightly, one or two either way they represent the overwhelming two to one passage of some 13 anti gun bills that recently passed in our State Assembly. I bring this to your attention simply because I think we are first all sportsmen and sports women in our organization and anglers second ; I believe many in our group also, in addition to fishing, enjoy hunting. A few may enjoy trapping while others may enjoy target or competition shooting. In my opinion I believe we are long past the time based on the amount of freedoms to enjoy our sports that we have lost over the years that allow us to stick our heads in the sand hoping our problems will go away. In case you missed the headings of some of the bills that passed the Assembly they include an ammo ban, renewal pistol licenses, a dealer restriction bill, requiring a gun safety course, banning 50 calibers, gun storage bill and the list goes on.

Small consolation but most of our local Central New York assembly persons voted no on just about all the 13 bills except Joan Christenson who voted "yes" on eight of the 13. The vote was similar in most upstate communities; the majority of the "yes" votes came from ill-informed downstate legislators most of whom would not know one end of a gun from the other. In this regard our downstate members should make it clear to their legislators they are upset at the vote and remember it at election time.

Now the only hope we have to block more restrictive measures on our freedom to own and carry guns is in the State Senate. The votes will be coming fast and furious in the coming days and weeks. Not surprising the majority of the anti gun bills in the senate were introduced by Senator Schneiderman from the Bronx, Senator Seranno from Queens and Senator Johnson from Nassau. The only way we sportsmen can stop this attack on our 2nd amendment rights is by each of us calling our state senator and asking for a "no" vote on these bills. When we all pull together as all sportsmen did, anglers, hunters, trappers, etc concerning the closing of the DEC's Reynolds Pheasant Farm the outcome can be in our favor.

All the unfavorable gun legislation bills can be found on the Senate Web as can the name and email, phone number of your local state senator. In the past most sportsmen have earned a terrible reputation of letting the other guy do it; that notion will not work anymore, unless we all stick together as one voice we are outnumbered and outgunned. I will say no more but will sit back and witness the outcome.

JOE LARUE MEMORIAL WALLEYE & BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 15th Annual Joe LaRue Tournament will be held on August 8th and 9th on Oneida Lake. For more information, contact Jim Caldwell at 315 -697-2087

MULTI LAKE REPORT FOR MAY

Barry Stevens

As our club president says, we are fortunate to have so many lakes close by that offer different fish species. I can testify to that, having fished Lake Ontario, Oneida Lake, and Cazenovia Lake this month, each about the same number of times.

Lake Ontario has basically been on fire for fellow member Mike Roche and me. We have made a number of trips targeting brown trout, and have limited out each time. Of course this should go without saying as my boat handle is the "Brown Bagger." Oh, I wish it were that simple.

But this spring has been spectacular in close to shore. I generally have been fishing six to fifteen feet of water, using inline planer boards and Smithwick Rogues. I like to fish the points, and having obtained my season pass at Wright's Landing in Oswego, this means I usually fish by west three mile or by east four mile. Not knowing the names for sure, this means just west of Rudy's to the west of the harbor or just west of Alcan to the east of the harbor.

One particular item I try and pay attention to is the weather. I like to fish in murky water, so I watch the weather and attempt to fish either after a substantial blow or when the wind is still coming from out in the lake. This can make for bumpy rides, but it also pushes the warm water up against the shore and makes for turbid conditions, which draws in the browns. The points also seem to attract the browns, either along the sides or sometimes on top.

Although I like to fish the points, it really pays to start off right outside the harbor, as this frequently offers the warmest water and often holds fair numbers of browns. About half of our fish have been taken just east of the harbor.

As for Oneida Lake, I would like to say this too has been on fire, but for me it has been somewhat up and down so far. Of course I haven't made too many trips yet because of the great fishing for browns on the big pond.

So far this year I have tried jigging when alone, and I am definitely not a great jigger, but I decided to learn for a new challenge and a change in pace. I have made two trips, catching a walleye and a perch on the first trip and two walleyes on the second. From the people I have talked to I guess I am right in the middle of the pack so to speak.

I now fish out of the Lakeport area along the south shore, and so far I have only jigged this area using my small boat. In another few weeks I plan on venturing out on to the Shackelton Shoals where I had pretty good success last year both jigging and trolling with spinner rigs

On my only two trips I have concentrated my efforts either right in the bay, on the Lakeport Shoal, or on the Hogs Back Shoal. I exclusively use a flat sided 3/8 ounce hair jig. My preferred colors are black and white with a strand or so of silver, and on occasion brown or brown and yellow. Based on what some fellow expert teachers and friends have told me, there generally is no need to tip the jigs with live bait. Of course I will experiment.

Having not given up trolling by any means, fellow member Mike Roche and I made one trip out of Oneida Shores County Park on Memorial Day to troll the flats by the twin islands. We caught three walleyes using Junior Thundersticks and inline planer boards. We started fishing about 75 feet back of the boards, but eventually stayed in the 100 to 120 foot range. Once again our rig was simply a three-way swivel followed by a diver and a floater.

Whether trolling or jigging, it helps to pay close attention to the details, especially the depth finder and GPS. Once a walleye is caught, I mark the depth and location and try a few more passes to determine if they are schooled up. If nothing else, it gives me an idea of what conditions to continue looking for on that trip.

Regarding Cazenovia Lake, this lake offers fantastic fishing for bass and panfish. This time of year I enjoy fishing for crappie and generally do well casting a small tube jig. This is great fun using eight foot super ultra light fishing rods. When the crappie hit they often fight as hard as bass.

The key when casting is to anchor, and as the lake contains a lot of weeds it pays to anchor just outside of the weeds. The beauty of this lake is the absence of feeder streams, so the crappie fishing is concentrated in the lake.

By the way, the Helen L. McNitt State Park now provides excellent ice fishing access along the east side close to the north end of the lake. This access is right next to the best ice fishing for panfish that the lake has to offer. I hit it on numerous occasions this past winter and did fairly well.

Hey, I guess I should end this now and plan on fishing again tomorrow. Let's see, should it be Ontario, Oneida, or Cazenovia?

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: Pinnacle Deadbolt Limited DTF 30 Spinning Reel. Must be Limited! Contact Zane Jay McFadden D.D.S. (315-488-2908 anytime).